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Water Transport

USSR specialists had to persuade the Chinese that it was necessary and proper to try to control nature and to use it to advantage. For example, in transporting timber by water, the Soviet technique is to break the ice on rivers before the natural melting time in order to be ready to benefit from the spring rains carrying logs downstream. This did away with the problem of whether there was too little or too much water, and in 1950 and 1951 losses due to damage in river transport were reduced from 10 percent of total losses to 1.77 percent, thereby effecting great savings. These important results were all due to advanced Soviet experience and methods such as "breaking the ice before the river opens," "establishing individual and group responsibility," "putting up floating river barriers instead of permanent locks," "limiting the amount of timber transported at one time," "keeping a production progress chart," etc.

Rail Transport

As for the shipping of timber by rail, during the several years of Soviet assistance, the previous poor condition of locomotives, flatcars and roadbeds have been corrected, schedules have been established for trains, and regulations have been made in regard to other matters. Railways are guaranteed repair, support, and inspection. Day and night, trains are carrying out the movement to "load cars to full capacity, increase the number of miles per train over that previously assigned to each locomotive, and increase the distance traveled each day to 300 kilometers" thereby completely developing the potential strength of the logging railways. Taking the best year for transportation on logging railways under the Manchukuo government as 100, the index for 1950 was 120; 1951, 207; and the first 9 months of 1952, 301. At present, the Northeast's logging railways are the only important mechanical means of transporting timber.

Technical Improvements

With Soviet aid, the building materials industries, canceled the old supply system and put in a system of control based on business enterprise, taking building materials factories as the unit for cost accounting. Moreover, they changed the irrational organization of labor and set up a quota system for putting through a wage program based on individual production, thereby increasing production and quality. If 1949 is taken as 100, then the 1951 production index was 227. Each saw team's mill production was three times as great in 1951 as in 1949, the rate of production of finished materials increasing from 70 percent to 81.3 percent of the raw materials. Moreover, the experts proposed a method for the rational storing of lumber which prevented the usual mildew and spoilage. Very recently, the specialists, in accordance with Soviet experience, helped establish a self-operating lumber mill.

Forest Surveying

From the standpoint of forestry survey work, the specialists also made valuable proposals. Under the USSR grid survey method, which at present has been extended over all the Northeast section, the rate of survey work is six times as great as under the old system. In 1951, the Northeast survey area covered 330,000 hectares and saved 600 to 700 million yuan in expenses. In 1952, when the teams gradually became more familiar with the grid system of inspecting one area at a time, they surveyed twice as much as in 1951. It was originally calculated that the forestry survey problem in the Northeast would take 25 years to solve, but putting this grid plan into operation has brought the time for possible completion down to 5 years. In other words, it is a mistake to credit the growth of the Northeast timber industry to natural unaided expansion.

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